

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MERIDA 00059 070348Z
ACTION SCSE-00

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FM AMCONSUL MERIDA
TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 1062

UNCLAS MERIDA 0059

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC, MX (PALMER, ROBERT A.)

SUBJ: W/W: DISSAPPEARANCE ROBERT A. PALMER

REF: UNCLAS MERIDA 0028 AND MEXICO'S 2022

1. ON MONDAY, APRIL 4, 1977, I VISITED CAMPECHE AND HAD A LONG CONVERSATION WITH THE GOVERNOR OF CAMPECHE AND THE STATE'S ATTORNEY GENERAL. BOTH ASSURED ME THAT THEY WERE EXTREMELY CONCERNED OVER MR. PALMER'S DISAPPEARANCE. THE GOVERNOR STATED HE CONSIDERED PALMER A VALUABLE EMPLOYEE OF THE STATE AND ONE WHO WAS WELL-LIKED AND EXTREMELY CAPABLE. THE GOVERNOR ALSO WAS WELL ACQUAINTED WITH PALMER'S WORK AND FOR THIS REASON HAD TAKEN A SPECIAL INTEREST IN THE CASE

2. THE STATE'S ATTORNEY GENERAL INDICATED THAT HE HAD OPENED A FORMAL INVESTIGATION OF THE CASE UPON COMPLAINT OF PALMER'S EMPLOYER, THE FEDERAL TOURISM DIRECTOR FOR THE STATE OF CAMPECHE AND ALSO UPON COMPLAINT OF PALMER'S UNCLE. ACCORDING TO THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, A DETAILED INVESTIGATION HAS BEEN CONDUCTED, BUT NO PRODUCTIVE LEADS HAVE BEEN DEVELOPED.

3. PALMER'S BUSINESS ASSOCIATES AND KNOWN FRIENDS HAVE BEEN QUESTIONED.

LOOK-OUTS WERE SENT TO THE NEIGHBORING STATES OF YUCATAN, Q. ROO
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AND TABASCO AND SEVERAL OUT-OF-STATE TIPS WERE INVESTIGATED WITH NEGATIVE RESULTS. HIS HOME AND BELONGINGS WERE THOROUGHLY SEARCHED AND PERSONAL PAPERS READ IN THE HOPE OF DEVELOPING SOME INFORMATION BEARING ON PALMER'S DISAPPEARANCE.

4. THE ATTORNEY GENERAL STATED THAT PALMER APPEARED TO HAVE LEAD A SOMEWHAT "BOHEMIAN " PRIVATE LIFE AND THAT SOME OF HIS FRIENDS

REPORTEDLY WERE A BIT "STRANGE". HE CLAIMED THAT HE STILL WAS PROBING INTO THIS ASPECT OF THE CASE. HE ADMITTEDLY WAS DISCOURAGED BY THE COMPLETE LACK OF PROGRESS TODATE.

5. THE ATTORNEY GENERAL PROMISED TO SEND ME AN OFFICIAL RESUME OF THE INVESTIGATION. COPIES WILL BE FORWARDED TO THE EMBASSY AND THE DEPARTMENT AS SOON AS RECEIVED.

6. I ALSO SPOKE WITH PALMER'S EMPLOYER, JORGE LANZ PAULLADA, FEDERAL DIRECTOR OF TOURISM FOR CAMPECHE. HE EXPRESSED EXTREME CONCERN OVER PALMER'S DISAPPEARANCE AND NOTED THAT THE EFFORTS OF THE POLICE HAD BEEN FRUSTRATED BY COMPLETE LACK OF ANY TANGIBLE LEADS. ALTHO HE WENT INTO GREAT DETAIL CONCERNING PALMER'S DISAPPEARANCE, LANZ COULD ADD NOTHING NEW. HE DID, HOWEVER, SHARE THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OPINION THAT SOME OF PALMER'S "BOHEMIAN" FRIENDS PROBABLY HAD KNOWLEDGE OF THE CASE.

7. I GATHERED THAT EVEN THOUGH THE CASE STILL REMAINS OPEN IN THE BOOKS OF THE STATE'S ATTORNEY GENERAL, THE DISCOURAGING LACK OF LEADS HAS BROUGHT ACTIVE INVESTIGATION TO A HALT. I THEREFORE SUGGEST THAT IF THE FAMILY WISHES AN ENERGETIC INVESTIGATION CONTINUED THAT IT EMPLOY THE SERVICES OF A COMPETENT PRIVATE INVESTIGATOR.

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